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FTA news

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA - CIO

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Election Won in 13 Citrus Sheds In Tulare County

Porterville, Calif.—With the winning of NLRB elections in 13 citrus packingsheds in this area on Jan. 4 and 5, FTA's Citrus Workers Organizing Committee scored a significant victory over the flagrant anti-union attacks of the grower-shippers. Added to the four sheds which voted for the Union several months ago, FTA now has bargaining rights for one-third of the Tulare County citrus industry.

"FTA is carrying the fight for time-and-a-half to the citrus industry—and getting it," said Regional Director Dixie Tiller. "Hundreds of workers have joined the Union since the elections. Petitions are being filed on 30 more sheds for next season. Credit for our victory is due the local workers who fought the anti-union bosses to a standstill."

The NLRB scheduled the election for mid-December, but the shippers obtained an injunction at the last moment, prohibiting the NLRB and the union from proceeding with the election. The CWOC secured a federal court ruling setting aside the injunction, but by the first of the year large sections of the workers on the sheds had already left to work in other districts.

As the result of this maneuver, CWOC lost the election in 37 out of the 50 sheds on Jan. 4 and 5.

The 13 victorious sheds were: American Fruit Growers, Inc., in Lindsay, Woodlake and Porterville; Grandview Heights Citrus Assn., Stark Packing Co., Sunland Packing Co., Terrabella Citrus Assn., Magnolia Citrus Assn. and Plano Packing House in Porterville; L. H. Poore in Lemon Cove; Strathmore Packing House and Strathmore Cooperative Assn. in Strathmore, and Webb Packing Co. in Lindsay.

In the election, 421 workers voted for FTA, and 203 voted for no union.

Lawyer Hails DeBerry Decision as Union Gain

Baltimore, Md.—The successful outcome of the DeBerry case "is an important victory for the cause of unionism in the South," asserted I. Duke Avnet, attorney for William DeBerry, shortly after the North Carolina Supreme Court dismissed the case.

"I look upon this decision as an important ratification of a grave injustice done an innocent man," wrote Avnet to FTA President Donald Henderson. "I believe that your Union has definitely established the fact that it will leave no stone unturned to protect its own regardless of what the odds may be. I desire to congratulate your Union in its leadership."

Labor unions and progressive people over the nation hailed the good news of DeBerry's release.

Claiming that DeBerry had not received a fair trial, Avnet argued that the court had no jurisdiction over an assault case alleged to have occurred in a Federal court. The court confirmed his stand by reversing the decisions of the lower courts and throwing the case out.

DeBerry had been charged with slapping a white company-union stooge from the R. J. Reynolds cigarette plant and had been sentenced to 60 days on the road.

$5000 in Back Pay Won At Libby Milk Cannery

By Mervin Stralow, Reporter

Morrison, Ill.—Some $5,000 in back pay will be paid to employees of the Libby, McNeil and Libby plant here, as a result of a War Labor Board order issued December 6. Local 52 appealed to the Board three times, and this final decision granted a general wage increase of 5c per hour retroactive to April 5, 1944.

The WLB also ordered that time-and-a-half be paid for over 44 hours work per week.

The Morrison Libby plant produces evaporated and sweetened condensed milk.

Our No-Strike Pledge is Sacred, Murray Says

Washington, D. C.—"Our pledge not to strike is as sacred as our fighters' pledge to give their lives, if necessary, to defeat the enemy," CIO President Philip Murray declared in a letter Jan. 12 addressed to the membership of the United Auto Workers (CIO).

The letter, written to UAW President R. J. Thomas to be directed to the membership of his union, is a powerful plea to the UAW to retain its No-Strike Pledge which is being voted upon by the UAW membership in a national referendum.

Murray's letter follows in full:

"Dear Sir and Brother:

"This is directed through you to the membership of the largest union in the world.

"Your union is about to vote on upholding its pledge not to [illegible] and pledge, [illegible] 11 million soldiers, [illegible] and marines who are giving their lives in a killing struggle. Their minds are weary and their bodies are exhausted.

"Yet through the cloud of suffering and death that overshadows the battlefronts, there shines a beam of confidence—confidence that the folks back home will not let their fighting men down. The staggering record of continuous production piled up by working people is mighty evidence that they are more than fair weather patriots.

CRITICAL DAYS

"These are critical days. Mighty offensives are grinding forward. The work and sweat and production of the past are the tanks, planes and guns expended now against the enemy. The struggle is long and costly. Yet our fighting men are determined to win.

"To millions of men in uniform sweating out their lives for victory, it is entirely logical that the labor movement should pass resolutions not to strike and should maintain them inviolate. It would be entirely illogical to expect our fighting men to understand or to accept any other action.

"It takes time to settle grievances—against the Axis, and against some American employers. Our fighting men expect to settle the former grievances themselves with force. They expect us back home to settle the latter grievances within a peaceful pattern of labor relations that guarantees uninterrupted war production. For if delay on the home front is hard to take, delay on the battlefront means loss of life, and often is the difference between defeat and victory.

"Our pledge not to strike is as sacred as our fighters' pledge to give their lives, if necessary, to defeat the enemy. It would be just as foolish for any [illegible] fighters or workers could revoke their pledges and still give every ounce of energy toward victory. You don't win battles with retreats—even if they are advertised as 'psychological only.'

YEAR OF PROGRESS

"Despite some setbacks, this has been a year of major progress on the military fronts. It has also been a year of progress on the home front. CIO added 669,000 new members, many of them in your unoin. CIO helped reelect President Roosevelt and elect a more progressive Congress. CIO unions, maintaining their no-strike commitments, have scored decisive gains for millions of workers, with millions of dollars in benefits yet to come as the National War Labor Board makes retroactive pay decisions.

KEEP RECORD CLEAN

"With more than one million members, UAW - CIO is the strongest union in America. Its continued growth, its very existence, depend on the record it builds during this war. I urge you to keep that record clean in the minds of millions of servicemen by voting to retain your pledge not to strike.

"Fraternally,

"PHILIP MURRAY
"President"

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FDR REPORTS ON

The State of the Union

The following are excerpts from President Roosevelt's historic message on the State of the Union on January 6:

National Service

THERE are three basic arguments for a national service law.

First—It would assure that we have the right numbers of workers in the right places at the right times.

Second—It would provide supreme proof to all our fighting men that we are giving them what they are entitled to, which is nothing less than our total effort.

And—third—it would be the final unequivocal answer to the hopes of the Nazis and the Japanese that we may become half-hearted about this war and that they can get from us a negotiated peace.

National service legislation would make it possible to put ourselves in a position to assure certain and speedy action in meeting our manpower needs.

It would be used only to the extent absolutely required by military necessities . . .

This proposed legislation would provide against loss of retirement and seniority rights and benefits. It would not mean reduction in wages . . .

Economic Bill Of Rights

AN ENDURING peace cannot be achieved without a strong America—strong in the social and economic sense as well as in the military sense.

In the state of the Union message last year, I set forth what I considered to be an American economic bill of rights.

I said then, and I say now, that these economic truths represent a second bill of rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all—regardless of station, race or creed.

Of these rights the most fundamental, and one on which the fulfillment of the others in a large degree depends, is the "right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation." In turn, others of the economic rights of American citizenship such as the right to a decent home, to a good education, to good medical care, to social security, to reasonable farm income, will, if fulfilled, make major contributions to achieving adequate levels of employment.

The Federal Government must see to it that these rights become realities—with the help of States, municipalities, business, labor, and agriculture. . .

Full Employment

AFTER the war we must maintain full employment with Government performing its peacetime functions. This means that we must achieve a level of demand and purchasing power by private consumers—farmers, businessmen, workers, professional men, housewives—which is sufficiently high to replace wartime Government demands; and it means also that we must greatly increase our export trade above the pre-war level.

Our policy is, of course, to rely as much as possible on private enterprise to provide jobs. But the American people will not accept mass unemployment or mere makeshift work. There will be need for the work of everyone willing and able to work—and that means close to 60 million jobs.

Full employment means not only jobs—but productive jobs. Americans do not regard jobs that pay substandard wages as productive jobs . . .

Peacetime Expansion

THE necessary expansion of our peacetime productive capacity will require new facilities, new plants and new equipment . . .

Our full employment program requires the extensive development of our natural resources and other useful public works. The undeveloped resources of this continent are still vast. Our river watershed projects will add new and fertile territories to the United States. The TVA, which was constructed at a cost of 750 million dollars—the cost of waging this war for less than four days—was a bargain. We have similar opportunities in our other great river basins . . .

If we are to avail ourselves fully of the benefits of civil aviation, and if we are to use the automobiles we can produce, it will be necessary to construct thousands of airports and to overhaul our entire national highway system.

The provision of a decent home for every family is a national necessity, if this country is to be worthy of its greatness—and that task will itself create great employment opportunities. Most of our cities need extensive rebuilding. Much of our farm plant is in a state of disrepair. To make a frontal attack on the problems of housing and urban reconstruction will require thoroughgoing cooperation between industry and labor, and the Federal, State and local governments . . .

Give Him The Shot!

FROM WASHINGTON

Real Gains In Congress

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Legislative Director

NEWSpaper headlines and featured stories about the New Congress have tended to overestimate its bad features and underplay the real gains made in the elections. While Vandenburg, Wheeler and others are taking up the time of the Senate by vicious attacks on the Administration's foreign policy and die-hards in the House are planning sneak maneuvers like the one which resulted in setting up the Rankin (Dies) Committee on a permanent basis, the elections are paying off in constructive changes in the character of the working committees of Congress. These changes will be of the greatest significance when important foreign policy and other legislation comes up for action.

Power of Committees

The fate of any proposed bill is influenced to a great extent by the makeup of the committee to which it is referred. A good committee can kill a bad bill. A bad committee can flood the Senate or House with irrelevent or dangerous legislation; if it is one of the more important or active committees it can do this in spite of the fact that the majority leadership opposes its activities.

The defeat of some of the outstanding fascist-minded isolationists and just plain reactionaries on November 7 has resulted in important changes in key committee posts:

Big Changes

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has been strengthened on the Democratic side by the addition of three vigorous supporters of the President's policies: Lister Hill of Alabama, Carl Hatch of New Mexico, and Scott Lucas of Illinois.

Republican appointments to this all important committee show that we were right when we accused Dewey and the Republican party leadership of talking international cooperation and acting against it. Senators Wiley of Wisconsin and Bridges of New Hampshire, notorious isolationists who have never even tried to cover up their real views, were appointed over Senator Ball of Minnesota, the outstanding Republican proponent of international cooperation.

One of the most significant changes is the shifting of the chairmanship of the Senate Military Affairs Committee [illegible] friend of foreign and native fascists, Reynolds of North Carolina, to Elbert Thomas of Utah, who has not only been one of labor's best friends but a statesman of great vision in foreign policy. It was necessary for Senator Thomas to leave his job as chairman of the Education and Labor Committee to take over Military Affairs, but he is being succeeded by James Murray of Montana, co-author of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell social security bill and the Murray-Kilgore Bill.

The Senate Agrilculture Committee is finally rid of "Cotton Ed" Smith, who was defeated by the people of South Carolina before he died. Its new chairman is Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma who, while he is no prize package as chairman of a committee which will make decisions affecting the lives of American farmers for the postwar period, is an infinite improvement over Cotton Ed, the man who might have been funny if he hadn't been so vicious.

No More Fish

In the House, the all-powerful Rules Committee which determines when and how bills are to come up is rid of Ham Fish. The Agriculture Committee has as its chairman John W. Flannagan of Virginia, one of the better southern Democrats.

Vito Marcantonio, American Labor Party Congressman from New York (and also unanimous choice of the Democratic and Republican parties in his district), has been appointed to the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the House and can be counted on for a vigorous campaign to expand our foreign trade. The largely reactionary House Military Affairs Committee has been improved by the addition of Chet Holifield, a California Congressman serving his second term who has one of the best voting records in the House.

Tell It To Congress

OF THE hundreds of bills thrown into the Congressional hopper already, there are two which require immediate action. They are:

Work or Fight Bill (S. 36 and H.R. 1191)

The Brewster-Bailey (May) bill for National Service contains some bad features, such as a forced labor battalion, and it places the administration of the law under Selective Service which is not equipped to handle the problem.

ACTION: Tell your Senators and Represenatives the CIO favors working out a solution to the manpower problem by joint conference of labor, industry, agriculture and government. We oppose these specific bills.

"Equal Rights" Amendment (H.J. Res. 30 and others)

Too many Congressmen don't realize this would wipe out protective measures for women workers which are now on the statute books. The makers of this "phony" bill are taking advantage of the confusion to railroad it through.

ACTION: Educate your Senators and Congressmen. Explain why we oppose it. Ask them to vote it down and to be prepared to support measures which will give women equal pay rights.

Raises Won InCampbell's Power House

Chicago, Ill. — Wage increases for Power House employees of the Campbell Soup plant were recommended by a War Labor Board panel hearing on January 11, according to Veronica Kryzan, Fin. Secy. of Local 194.

Operating Engineers, Boiler Room Engineers, and Boiler Room Mechanics are to receive increases of 5c per hour; House Engineers, 9½c per hour; and Firemen, 14½c per hour.

Power House employees already enjoy a 3c cost of living allowance incorporated in their contract and upheld by the recent WLB panel hearing recommendation.

On May 24, 1944, the Power House employees chose Local 194 as their bargaining agent. The Local filed a Form 10 which made the panel hearing possible. Representing the Union at the hearing were: Paul Gardner. Regional Director; John Gallagher, Pres. of Local 194, and a Committee of the Power House employees.

Ickes Lauds Power Of Labor Press

New York, N.Y. (FP)—Criticizing labor news coverage by daily newspapers as "inadequate," Secy. of the Interior Harold L. Ickes said Jan. 7 that the labor press can fill a huge need by presenting labor news with "complete integrity and honesty."

Writing on "The Job of the Labor Press" in the first issue of Union Voice, joint newspaper of Locals 65 and 890 of United Retail, Wholesale & Dept. Store Employees (CIO), Ickes said in part:

"The big obligation of the labor papers is, to mind, the task of attaining complete integrity and honesty in the presentation of labor news. If this goal be attained and maintained, the labor newspapers of the U. S. will win, not only the respect and admiration of their subscribers, but, in addition, a revolution in the treatment of news by many of the daily newspapers may well result."

The American public is becoming tired of the daily papers' "long time policy of suppression and falsification, particularly in the field of labor-management relations," Ickes said.

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Local Pres. Reinstated In Plant

By Anthony Taylor, President Local 154

Hillside, N. J.—Local 154 elected a new corps of Shop Stewards last week. No sooner were they in office, than they were called upon to settle a grievance for the Local President, Anthony Taylor. Brother Taylor was discharged by the management of the Jiffy Manufacturing Co. on the grounds that he was at retirement age and was a poor insurance risk.

After a meeting between the Shop Stewards and the Management, a settlement was reached reinstating Brother Taylor with full seniority and six days' pay for the time he was discharged. Thanks are due Int. Vice-Pres. Armando Valdes, and Regional Director Armando Ramirez for their assistance on the case.

A new contract was signed between the Union and the Company, and a Form 10 filed with the War Labor Board.

WAR SERVICES

In the past year, $6,885 worth of Bonds were bought by the members of Local 154. Four hundred and sixty-five dollars was contributed to the War Relief Fund, $225 to the USO and $185 to the Red Cross.

We have kept in constant touch with our members in the Armed Forces, sending them packages, money, letters and cigarettes. For this purpose a fund was set up in the Local to which each member contributes.

FTA Wins NLRB Polls In Three Food Plants

FTA continues to roll on winning one NLRB election after another, bringing to the workers the strength of unionism, and uniting the workers in the food industries solidly behind the war effort.

Local 35 won an NLRB election at the Sardik Food Products plant in McCallen, Texas, on January 5, by a vote of 48 to 21.

Newly-chartered Local 21 won its first big victory at the Liebman Packing Co., in an NLRB election on December 1. FTA was chosen the bargaining agent for 63 workers by a vote of 32 to 2 for AFL and 2 for "no union."

Local 175 became the bargaining unit for production and maintenance workers at the Lange Canning Co. in Eau Claire, Wis., on November 2. Seasonal workers employed less than three seasons were not included under the bargaining unit. Of 29 eligible votes, FTA got 17 against 2 votes for "no union."

Engaged in the canning of peas and corn, and the processing of cans in off-seasons, the Lange cannery employs 300 workers during peak seasons.

10c Raises Won In Tamale Plants

San Francisco, Calif. — A wage increase of 10c per hour retroactive for 23 months was awarded by the War Labor Board to 80 workers in the San Francisco tamale industry, according to Local 7's San Francisco Branch Agent, Pablo Valdes.

Highest back pay check received as a result of the WLB order was $300. The workers receiving the huge back pay award are employed by the Sanchez Grocery Co. and the Trio Tamale factory.

Before these plants were organized, they were notorious for their horrible sweatshop conditions of work and low wages.

Local 80 Scores High In War Service Activity

Camden, N. J.—Red Cross workers who brought a mobile blood bank to the Campbell Soup Plant at the invitation of Local 80 Shop Steward Elsie Bonner, Chairlady of the Labor-Management Committee on Safety, Health, Welfare, were well pleased with the results. Prepared to receive 250 pints a day, they were swamped with over 300 donors a day.

Campbell Soup employees did as well on the Sixth War Loan Drive by oversubscribing their $187,000 quota. In charge of the drive was the Labor-Mangaement Committee chaired by Anthony Valentino, Pres. of Local 80, and Andrew Cochrane, Personnel Manager.

Other important steps made by the Local this year was the appointment of Pres. Valentino to the United Union Social Service, an organization supported by the Camden Community Chest to help eliminate juvenile delinquency; and the purchase of a new building for the Local's new headquarters.

WON GRIEVANCES

Anthony DiBlasio, Shop Steward in the noodle department at Campbell's won six month's back pay for Brother Chuka, an employee who was incorrectly rated. Sister Oliphant has Shop Steward Dora Slaughter to thank for $59.31 in back pay, awarded for the same grievance.

To replace former officers, John Verderosa was elected Vice-Pres. of the Local, and Anthony DiBlasio, Rec. Secy.

Florence Levin and May Morgan, Shop Stewards, and Anna Magee, Shop Chairlady, were presented with boxes of candy by the management of the Siegel Cigar Co. for their splendid work in the Sixth War Loan Drive.

Urge New Trials For Seditionists

Philadelphia, Pa.—In a letter to Local and International Union officers, Intl. Secy-Treas. Harold Lane urged every FTA local to write Attorney General Biddle to re-open the sedition trials against Lawrence Dennis, Elizabeth Dilling, Eugene Sanctuary, Joe McWilliams and their followers, all known Fifth Columnists.

"As you know," he writes, "these trials have been interrupted, leaving these notorious characters scot-free and unpunished.

"The government encountered great difficulties in presenting its case because of the disruptive tactics of the defendants, which tended to make the trial appear a farce rather than a matter of serious concern for the American people. For this reason there is a dangerous possibility that the conspiracy case against the 26 persons may be dropped. This would have serious consequences in the nation as a whole. Not only would the government lose the opportunity to prove its case against the 26 defendents, but other persons of Fascist tendencies, who have avoided publicity in the course of the trial, would operate much more openly to the detriment of the war effort.

EFFECT ON CONGRESS

There has been a certain element in Congress which has used the sedition trial as a measure of how far it could go in anti-war statements and activities. Should the case be dropped, these Congressmen, who are also the worst labor-baiters, would feel much more free to air their anti-war, pro-fascist sentiments."

CIO Calls For Wage Increases Now To Meet Rising Cost Of Living

Washington, D. C. (FP)—Blaming the OPA for delay in winning approval of labor's demand for wage adjustments to meet the spiraling cost of living, the CIO Jan. 12 released a statement by its officers strongly reiterating their demand for a revision of national wage policy.

Pres. Philip Murray and CIO Vice-Presidents Joseph Curran, S. H. Dalrymple, Albert J. Fitzgerald, John Green, Allan S. Haywood, Emil Rieve, Reid Robinson, Frank Rosenblum, R. J. Thomas and Secy. Treas. James Carey participated in the meeting that was followed by the statement.

BOARD DELAYED

After recounting the situation and charging that the cost of living now was "far in excess of the minimum of 30% accepted by the President's Cost of Living Committee," the statement said "the CIO and its affiliated unions have with great patience presented their specific cases to the WLB. But in spite of the fact that this issue has been before the board for over a year, the board has failed to make any determination or to submit any report to the President of the U. S.

OPA HEDGING

"The serious shortcomings of our present wage policy are also reflected in the impasse now reached by the board in that it has been advised by Director of Economic Stabilization Fred Vinson not to render any decision in even so-called fringe issues such as vacations, reclassifications, shift premium, and the like, without first ascertaining from the OPA whether . . . such action may necessarily involve a price increase.

"Unfortunately, all too frequetly the OPA, in spite of excessive and extortionate profits of the companies involved, has determined that even the limited wage adjustments allowed by the board justify further price increases.

ACUTE PROBLEM

"Theory and continued discussion do not meet the acute problems confronting the wage earners in American industry . . . To assure high national morale, so vital for the crucial days ahead, it is imperative that the president of the U. S. revise our national wage policy and thereby permit the wage earners to obtain a wage adjustment to offset the ravages of the increase in wartime living costs."

BUY MORE BONDS!

HOW TO DESTROY LABOR

Dancing To PAC Jive At Local 15

By Rebecca Stanfield, Reporter

Charleston, S.C. — A dance was held on January 9 to raise money to buy furniture for Local 15's new office. Music was furnished by the "Famous Night Hawks," and even if you couldn't dance, your feet found a rhythm to chime in with the music.

If your curiosity led you to investigate what the crowd was doing at the table across from the refreshment booth, you found that Local 15 was busy on the Political Action front too. Everyone was writing letters to the Governor of South Carolina protesting the proposal of the "Preparedness for Peace Commission" prohibiting union shops. Sol Leviton, NMU patrolman, was in charge of the letter writing booth.

A contract is being negotiated between Local 15 and the American Tobacco Company. Points still to be considered at the WLB hearing on January 26 are: wages, six months' reopening clause, number of machines to be serviced by mechanics, placing box shop workers on an hourly basis, mandatory check-off, and a 65c minimum.

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN LABOR

The Lesson Of Unity

By DR. PHILIP FONER

(This is the first of a series on American labor history written for Federated Press and FTA NEWS by Dr. Foner, instructor at the Jefferson school of Social Science in New York and author of a number of works on American history.)

THE great democratic movement which created our nation and its constitution also gave birth to the American labor movement. In 1781 the Federal Society of Journeymen Cordwainers of Philadelphia was founded, four years after the constitution had been drafted in that same city.

This first step by the cordwainers (shoemakers) was soon followed by the printers, cabinet makers, carpenters, shoemakers and other skilled workers from Boston to Charleston, S. C.

These early unions fought for higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions. Wages were from 50c to 75c daily for the skilled, and from 20c to 40c for the unskilled. The workday was from dawn to sunset, a 15-hour day during Summer. And there was no pay for overtime.

To end such conditions these early unions sent committees to present their demands to employers. If an employer rejected the demands a strike or "turnout" was called, picket lines or "tramping committees" were set up and strike funds collected. By correspondence with unions in other cities, they blocked employer efforts to bring in strikebreakers.

The employers turned to the courts to break the strikes and the unions. The courts ruled that unions were conspiracies against the public welfare and that strikes were unlawful.

The unions set out to win public support. They found their strongest allies in the democratic movement led by Thomas Jefferson. In 1806 the Jeffersonian press and political leaders rallied behind the shoemakers and other unions.

With this mass support, labor was able gradually to win victories in the courts. Workers were given light fines, not sentences to hard labor as in England. Slowly unions forced the courts to change their decision. Finally, in 1842, the Massachusetts supreme court ruled that both unions and the strike weapon were legal.

It was not until 1827 that the first city labor federation was formed to unite the crafts within a single city—the Mechanics Union of Trades Associations of Philadelphia. It grew out of the strike conducted by the carpenters union for the 10-hour day. The strike was not won, but it taught an important lesson — that the unity of all trades was needed for victory.

Out of this organization emerged the first labor party in our history, the Workingmen's Party of Philadelphia, organized in 1828.

(In the next article the early development of labor's political action will be given.)

Tri-State Council Raps Dies Comm.

Charleston, S.C. — Scoring attempts of the die-hard Southern Tories and their fellow reactionaries in Congress, the Tri-State Council, meeting here on January 7, passed a resolution condemning the continuation of the bitterly fought Dies Committee, now the Rankin Committee.

Local 26 Business Agent Bea McCrea urged all present to get their locals in the fight against the Rankin Committee. She said that this is a lesson that we must never slacken our efforts in behalf of progressive action, as proved by PAC in the last Presidential election.

DELEGATES

Present at the Tri-State meeting were Robbie Mae Riddick, newly elected FTA Vice-Pres.; Frank Green, Chairman Local 22, Etta Hobson, S.B. Templeton, and Robert Black of Local 22; Max Sussman, Int. Rep.; Brother Murphy, Local 57; Brother Harris and Bea McCrea of Sufolk, Va.; Reuel Stanfield, Joseph McKenzie, Dan Reid, Mary Smoak, Bernice Sweatt, Lucille Simmons, Angela Brown, Isiah Bennett, S. B. Graham, and Rebecca Stanfield attended from Local 15.

Among the questions discussed was the joint participation by the locals in all existing city and state CIO industrial councils, and the initiation of such councils where they do not exist.

MEMBERS INSPIRED

Local 15 members present at the meeting were inspired to see and hear the enthusiastic sisters and brothers from the other locals to share in the discussion of mutual problems, and to learn the methods through which better union working conditions were achieved.

A Constitutional Committee, made up of Frank Green, Bea McCrea, and Dan Reid among others, is to meet one month before the next meeting of the Tri-State Council to draw up a constitution.

The next Tri-State Council meeting will take place in Winston-Salem on April 7 and 8.

Union Protests Inhuman Attitude Of Foreman

Findlay, Ohio—For saving the life of a fellow worker on Company time, Brother Curtis, a member of Local 72, was given a bawling out by Mr. Dillon, a foreman at the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Cigar Company. Finding Clarence Freshey, a D.W.G. worker, lying on the floor of a car unconscious from carbon monoxide gas, Curtis broke in and hauled Freshey out into the air to revive him.

Freshey left the plant during working hours and, after running a hose from the exhaust pipe into the back of the car, started running the motor and lay down in the car.

Apparently Mr. Dillon's policy is save a life, but on your own time, not the Company's. Angered by the foreman's action, members of Local 72 appealed to the Fifth National Convention meeting in Philadelphia at the time. Delegates to the Convention sent a letter to the Company protesting the inhuman attitude of the foreman.

Dillon is known among the employees for his abusive and ignorant manner.

"I HAD TO DELETE THE NAME FOR REASONS OF SECURITY"

Canteen For Servicemen

By Sally Sullivan, Reporter

Lima, Ohio—Taking stock of its war activities for the year of 1944, Local 70 is proud of its fine Canteen for servicemen. Florence Baber, Chairman of the Canteen Committee, deserves a vote of thanks for the splendid jobs she did in directing the work and getting money and donations.

On December 16, Florence and her Committee got 300 bags of home-made candy, 250 pop-corn balls and three chickens for the canteen. On Christmas Day, the Committee prepared a turkey for the servicemen.

The Canteen workers distribute the food to servicemen at the railroad station in Lima.

Bennie Rouse and his wife, Louise, are outstanding members of Local 45, Richmond, Va. A Chief Shop Steward, Bennie has been working at the Export Leaf Co. for 23 years, and is a floor leader, hauling and grading tobacco. He was a delegate to the Virginia CIO Convention, the Tobacco Workers Conference in Camden, N. J., and the Southern States Conference in Atlanta, Ga. He is also a member of Local 45's Contract Committee. Louise is a former Secy.-Treas. of the Local. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rouse are charter members of the Local.

Win First Contract at Humko Lard —Wage Increases and Vacations

Memphis, Tenn.—Two months after winning an election, Local 19 signed a contract with the Humko Company, according to Business Agent, Joseph Hellinger. Ninety percent of the workers got a ten cent raise, and the others got five cents. Increases are retroactive to December 28, 1944. Employees with five years' service will get two weeks' vacation, and one week for one year. Six holidays were gained with overtime pay for holidays worked. Women employees will have two ten-minute rest periods daily.

Jessie Harrison organized the plant. Joseph Hellinger, Willie Chambers, Sally Orr, Prince Jones, and Wesley Rounds formed the Negotiating Committee.

A victory was won when the rate range was raised by the WLB for all common labor at the Buckeye Jackson and Buckeye Hollywood plants. In this area a 50 cent minimum is the standard which seemed impossible to crack. By winning a range of 50 to 55 cents, Local 19 broke the 50 cent minimum after a long struggle with the stubborn Regional WLB at Atlanta.

3c AND 4c INCREASES

Semi-skilled production workers received increases of four cents per hour at the Buckeye Jackson plant, and skilled workers received three cents per hour.

At the Buckeye Hollywood plant, all employees other than common labor received increases of five cents an hour.

All the wage increases are retroactive to August 7. Negotiations took place over a period of months. A previous decision by the WLB was appealed and finally revised to bring about the above gains. Members of the Negotiating Committee were George Isabel, Roger Ford, and Jack Wilks.

GAINING SECURITY

The Union has gained in the first step to keep maintenance of membership and check-off clauses from being revoked at the Buckeye Jackson and the Buckeye Hollywood plants. A report of the WLB Hearing Officers recommended that the maintenance of membership and check-off clauses be retained. These plants, branches of Proctor and Gamble, have for the past three years fought the Union at every turn. Better relations are being established with them now than ever before.

Negotiations are at present being conducted at the following plants: Memphis Cotton Oil Co., Jackson Cotton Oil Co., Swift Cotton Oil Co., Tri-State Compress, L. P. Cook & Sons; Royal Feed Mills; Happy Mills; Pillsbury Flour Mills; Cold Press Mill; D. Canale & Co.; Memphis Pecan & Walnut Co.; and Carradine Karsch Co.

Urge Prosecution Of Taylor Rapists

By Joseph Hellinger, Business Agent

Memphis, Tenn. — A resolution was passed by Local 19 calling upon Governor Sparks of Alabama to immediately prosecute the rapists of Mrs. Recy Taylor, Negro mother and wife of a Serviceman.

At its bi-weekly meeting, Local 19's PAC urged all members to keep alert to the issues facing the nation by reading FTA News and the daily papers, and to keep an eye on Congress by writing letters to their Congressmen on current legislation. They were urged to listen to good radio commentators, and to ask questions at PAC meetings on anything they want explained.

One thousand copies of a special issue of "The Southern Patriot" was bought by the Local to combat the so-called Christian American Association's anti-labor, fascist propaganda.

LOCAL 64 GOES TO WAR

San Diego, Calif. — "We want our boys to know that we are thinking of them. We want them to know that there will be a place for them when they get back, with all the gains the Union can make." With this slogan, Local 64 is forging ahead to strengthen the Union and hasten the day of Victory.

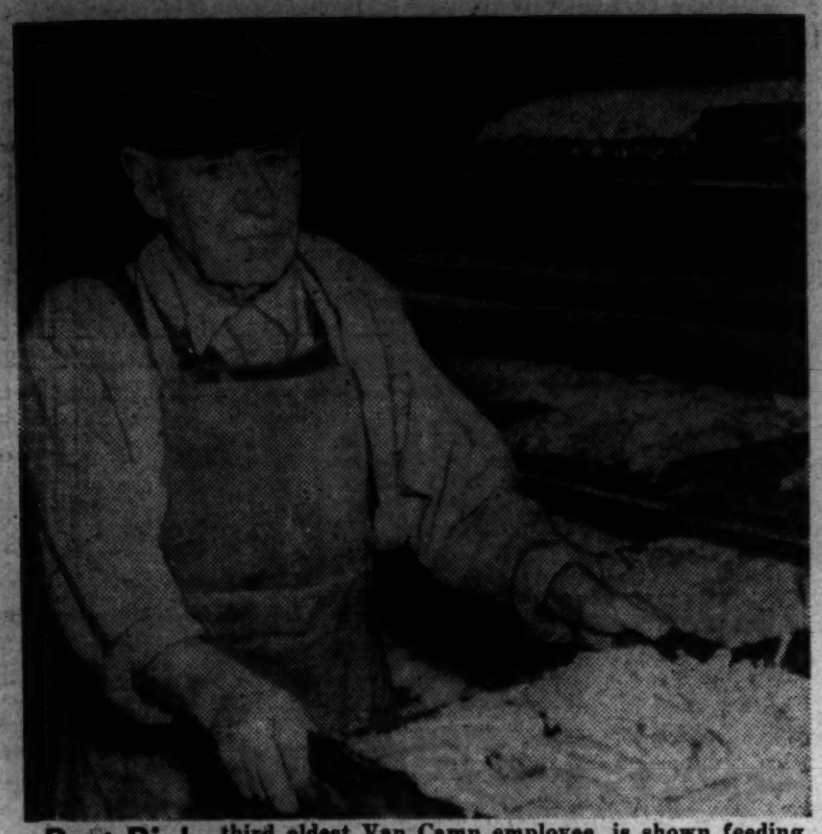
Organizing the Van Camp Sea Food plant in 1939 where the wage minimum was at one time 35 cents an hour, Local 64 brought wage increases and better working conditions to the workers. Today, after five years of working and building the Local together, Local 64 has brought the wage minimum up to 95 cents an hour for men.

Last July, members received over $50,000.00 in retroactive pay. Beside wage increases, the new contract provided more comfortable facilities for eating lunch, cool drinking water, and two hours pay when a worker is sent to the doctor.

Pay increases and vacations agreed to by the Company are now pending with the War Labor Board. Two week vacations will be given workers who put in a minimum of 36 hours a week. Seasonal employees who have worked for the Company for five years will receive one week vacations.

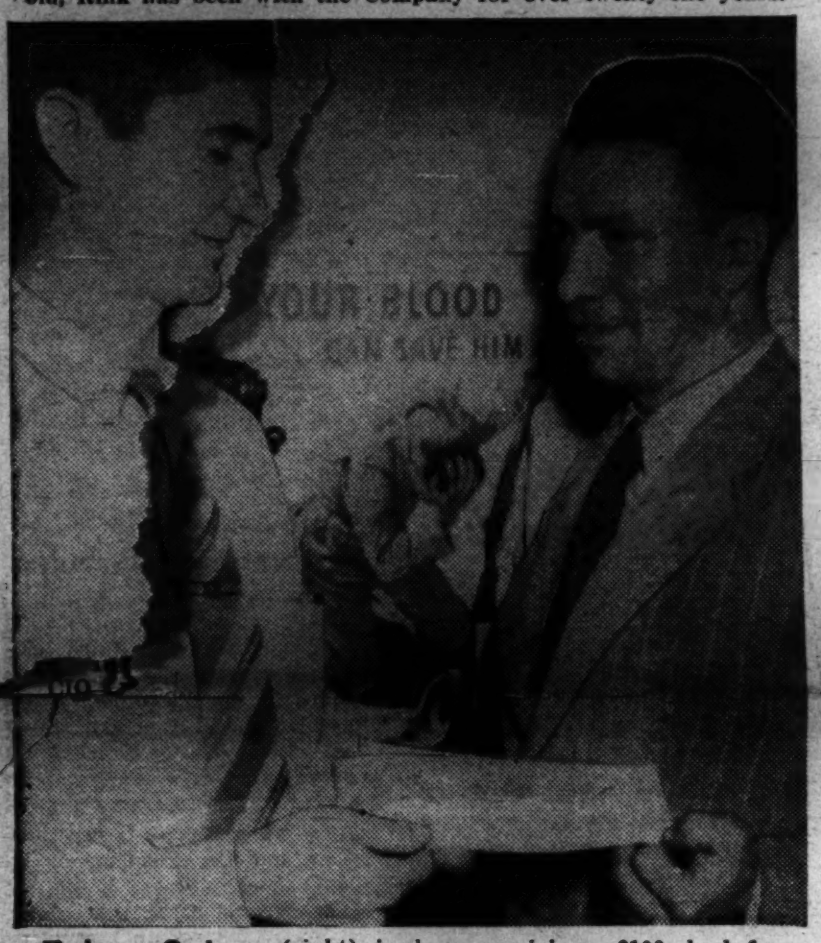
Sixty per cent of the canned tuna products these workers process goes to the Armed Forces. But, feeling that this is not enough for the war effort, Local 64 has become increasingly active in war service activities. Spirited campaigns are always going on in the plant for contributions to the War Chest, Red Cross and the purchase of War Bonds. In all of these campaigns the very finest cooperation exists between labor and management.

Three years ago, the Van Camp workers won the Red Cross flag for the highest increase in blood donors. This year, $1,581.20 was contributed to the War Chest, four times the amount contributed last year.

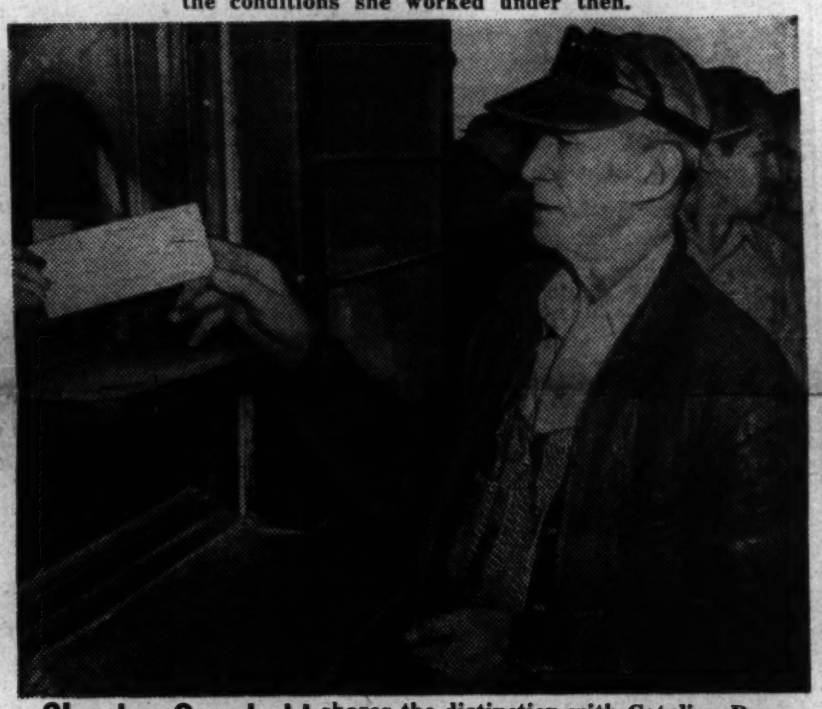


Bert Rink, third oldest Van Camp employee, is shown feeding tuna into the cutting machine. Seventy-six years old, Rink has been with the Company for over twenty-one years.

Catalina Perez, an employee of the Van Camp Seafood Company and member of Local 64, has been with the Company for twenty-five years. She is a conveyor inspector. Seventy-nine years old, Catalina can look back on the days before the plant was organized by the Union and remember the conditions she worked under then.



Robert Galvan (right), is shown receiving a $100 check from Glenn Copeland, Van Camp Seafood Co. personnel foreman, as a contribution from the Company toward the dinner the Local prepared for 500 Servicemen at the USO. (See picture below.) This sum, added to the contributions from Union members, bought the supplies for the dinner. In charge of cooking and serving were Mary Bull, Pearl Parrish, Maria Florez and Sophia Garcia.



Charles Overhold shares the distinction with Catalina Perez of being the oldest member of Local 64. Seventy-nine years young, Overhold is in perfect health. He drives to work daily, sharing his car with five other workers. "I helped build this place," says this employee of twenty-five years standing.

pany manager, and Laura E. Hurst, Local 64 Second Vice-President, were in charge of the drive to help satisfy the wounded men's "sweet tooth." Part of the group who helped with the Christmas dinner are shown above behind table (reading l. to r.) Mary Tsarro, Mrs. Francisa Galindo, Mrs. Edna Mae Murphy, Ramona G. Lopez, Mrs. Frances H. Felley, Robert Galvan (Local 64 Secy.), Mrs. Juana De La O, and Sgt. John G. Lefante, one of their guests.

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Pete Murphy, Secy.-Treas. of Local 57 was sent as a delegate to the Tri-State Council meeting in Charleston, S.C., along with Local 45 delegates Charles McClaiborne, Evetta Hamp and Int. Rep. Max Sussman. Everyone enjoyed the trip and the hospitality shown them by the members of Local 15. Brother Murphy gave a brief report on the Union's activities at the Southern Biscuit plant. He told of the splendid co-operation of the members and stated that before long we would have a 100% local in that shop.

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Local 72 elected the following officers for the new year: Sybil Neff, Pres.; Cleo McAdams, Vice-Pres.; Hazel Snyder, Secy.-Treas.; Myrtle Franks, Chief Shop Steward for the Local; Daisy Blodgett, Chief Steward on day shift; Alva Dick, Chief Steward on night shift; Cory Kingery, Arthelma Wilson, and Hattie Davis, Shop Stewards for day shift; Ella Zoll and Sarah James, Shop Stewards for night shift; Kocian Wyant, Orpha Cramer, and Ilo Stevison, Trustees.

Jack Montgomery, Regional Director, sent us a letter telling of the Union's fight to guarantee wage stability for cigar workers in the face of the OPA's change in cigar prices.

By Arthelma Wilson, Reporter

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179 Toledo, Ohio — Local 179 was very happy recently to welcome back a Brother who saw twenty-six months of service with the U. S. Army. He received a medical discharge, and is now back at work again.

The recent increase in dues and in per capita will be the means of building our Local treasury so that we can improve our activities and build the Local. We also hope to get some more soy bean plants organized, now that the International is financially able to put some more organizers in the field.

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Samuel Crawford and John W. Davenport negotiated the contract with the able assistance of Int. Vice-Pres. Lewis Bentzley.

By John W. Davenport, Secy.

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Gold Medal MACARONI

Gold Medal SPAGHETTI

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CEREAL COMPANY
LOCKPORT, ILL.

LEWIS A. TERVEN CO.
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CALIFORNIA VEGETABLES
MAIN OFFICE, SALINAS, CALIF.
P. O. Box 192
BRANDS:
Hi-Score — Gold Brick — Gold'n Fresh

AMERICAN HEROES
BY LEFF

August Friberg, Chief Engineer, Beaumont, Texas, forced his way along the outside rail of his flaming, torpedoed tanker. He fought flames with steam. His action saved the lives of crew members who would have perished otherwise, and he has won the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal. *Have you bought a War Bond this payday?*
U. S. Treasury Department

PACIFIC FRUIT EXCHANGE
85 SECOND ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

THESE WOMEN! by Gypsy d'Alroy
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The case came to the Supreme Court on appeal by Pres. R. J. Thomas of the United Auto Workers (CIO), who was convicted in September, 1943, of having addressed a union meeting at Baytown, Texas, without having first obtained an "organizers registration certificate" from the Texas Secretary of State. Thomas spoke at a meeting of the CIO Oil Workers Union.

The majority opinion said that "it was not by accident or coincidence that the rights to freedom in speech and press were coupled in a single guaranty with the rights of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition for redress of grievances."

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In winding up, the majority said, "We think that a requirement that one must register before he undertakes to make a public speech to enlist support for a lawful movement is quite incompatible with the requirements of the 1st Amendment" (to the constitution guaranteeing free speech, press, and assembly).

NOT A SMALL CASE

Finally, the Court said the Texas restraint "is not small when it is considered what was restrained. The right is a national right, federally guaranteed. There is some modicum of freedom of thought, speech and assembly which all citizens of the republic may exercise throughout its length and breadth, which no state, nor all together, nor the nation itself, can prohibit, restrain or impede. If the restraint were smaller than it is, it is from petty tyrannies that large ones take root and grow."

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Washington, D. C. (FP)—The CIO called on War Mobilization Director James M. Byrnes Jan. 12 to summon an immediate conference of leaders of labor, industry, agriculture and government to consider "a constructive solution of the manpower situation."

Coupled with a pledge that the CIO will "spare no effort to bring about complete mobilization of manpower," the letter to Byrnes voiced opposition to the May bill (HR 1119) as "thoroughly unworkable and would not produce the result that we all desire."

CIO Pres. Philip Murray also said that "we will work with all other groups to bring about" total mobilization.

The statement referred to the meeting the CIO requests with labor, industry, agriculture and government and declared that it "pledges its complete support to the solutions that will be worked out at such a meeting, to the immediate use of all powers under existing legislation and executive directives and to any legislation which will achieve the desired objectives and will apply all the strength and skill of 6 million American workers to carry out the decisions such a conference will make."

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As an agenda for the suggested joint conference, the statement said it should find the plants and areas where production is short; find whether plants, materials, manpower and management is being used for maximum production; and all unnecessary or luxury production; shift workers from one area to another with transportation costs to be repaid them and accompanied by guarantees against loss of accumulated seniority or wages.

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WARD A SYMBOL

Charging Montgomery Ward & Co. with a campaign of "guerrilla warfare" against unionism that has the entire government machinery for settling wartime labor disputes at stake, U. S. Asst. Attorney, General Hugh B. Cox asserted that Ward's defiance of the WLB "has become a symbol that we can go ahead and have labor disputes in spite of the war."

The company's lawyer charged that the President seized the plants because he played favorites with the unions. However, Cox argued that the President has the power to seize essential plants interfering with the war effort if they distribute or produce war material.

• AT YOUR SERVICE •

WOULD you like to give the girl on your machine a leaflet on our no-strike pledge? Is your Servicemen's Committee looking for dope on servicemen? Would your Executive Board or Education Committee like to show some movies—but is preplexed how to manage this?

Assistance on such matters is available in pamphlets which can be easily obtained — simply send postage stamps with small orders. the local union's check with large orders.

"Our Pledge to the Nation" is President Murray's speech at the CIO Convention on our no-strike pledge. It includes the text of the CIO resolution reaffirming this pledge in support of our people's war against fascist repression and cruelty.

Suggested use: Give this pamphlet to any members of the local who many not fully understand the no-strike pledge.

Order from the CIO, 718 Jackson Pl., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. 5c per copy, $4.00 per 100.

"When You Come Back," the first union guide for returning servicemen answers questions about servicemen's rights, the CIO program, veterans' organizations, etc. In a section on "Nailing Some Lies," the pamphlet spikes such rumors as "there's going to be a hell of a depression after the war."

Suggested Use: Get copies for the Executive Board and members of the Servicemen's Committee. A few extra copies for members as they return to civilian life would come in very handy.

Order from the United Electrical Workers, 11 East 51st St., New York 22, N. Y. 5c per copy, $4.50 per 100.

"Union Hall Films" lists all the best 16 mm. films, tells the rental cost, if any, and includes a section on where to get projectors and screens.

Suggested Use: In the hands of a committee responsible for arranging movie shows for the local, this pamphlet will be the means of bringing to the local a wealth of information, entertainment and inspiration.

Order from the CIO, 718 Jackson Pl., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. 10c. per copy.

Also from the same address you may get Bishop Sheil's address to the CIO Convention called **"A Society of Free Men."** These are 2c each, $1.50 per 100.

"A Plea for Equal Justice," issued by the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, 112 East 19th St., New York 3, N. Y. Free. The FTA Convention went on record supporting Mrs. Taylor's fight for justice.

CIO and AFL Call for Greatly Expanded Postwar Housing Program

Washington, D. C. (FP)—Demands of organized labor for a "greatly expanded postwar housing program to create jobs and provide decent living for all," were voiced Jan. 15 by the CIO and AFL before the Senate Subcommittee on Postwar Housing.

Advancing the CIO program for postwar housing, Pres. R. J. Thomas of the United Auto Workers and Chairman of the CIO Housing Committee said the production goal in housing must harness new and ever increasing productivity of American workers to provide "everybody with constantly improving places in which to live."

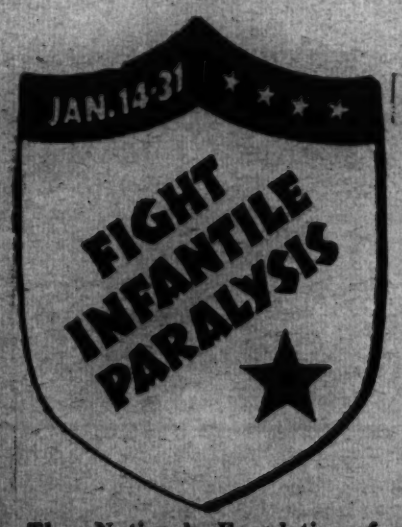
To create 60 million postwar jobs, Thomas said, there must be 15 million more jobs than there were in 1940. "At this rate of increase the building industry would have to provide 2 million more jobs in the postwar period than it did in 1940," giving a minimum job budget for the industry of 6½ million construction workers.

AFL PROGRAM

Leading a double-barrelled attack against the threat of a postwar depression, Chairman Harry C. Bates and Sec. Boris Shishkin of the AFL Housing Committee submitted a detailed 10-year program for the construction of 15 million homes, describing it as the "minimum program for meeting accumulated demand."

MORE JOBS

"The AFL program can be brought into high gear within 5 years after the cessation of hostilities," Shishkin declared. He said it would yield nearly 2½ million jobs at the construction site alone and "full operation of the plan would bring employment to 6½ million workers directly engaged in production and handling of building materials as well as the building itself."



The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is making its Annual Appeal for funds through the March of Dimes, January 14-31. Make your contribution to help overcome this dread disease!

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VICTORY

•

RIVAL PACKING COMPANY

Under Contract with Local 194

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BRANDS:

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WARD A SYMBOL

Charging Montgomery Ward & Co. with a campaign of "guerrilla warfare" against unionism that has the entire government machinery for settling wartime labor disputes at stake, U. S. Asst. Attorney, General Hugh B. Cox asserted that Ward's defiance of the WLB "has become a symbol that we can go ahead and have labor disputes in spite of the war."

The company's lawyer charged that the President seized the plants because he played favorites with the unions. However, Cox argued that the President has the power to seize essential plants interfering with the war effort if they distribute or produce war material.

• AT YOUR SERVICE •

WOULD you like to give the girl on your machine a leaflet on our no-strike pledge? Is your Servicemen's Committee looking for dope on servicemen? Would your Executive Board or Education Committee like to show some movies—but is preplexed how to manage this?

Assistance on such matters is available in pamphlets which can be easily obtained — simply send postage stamps with small orders. the local union's check with large orders.

"Our Pledge to the Nation" is President Murray's speech at the CIO Convention on our no-strike pledge. It includes the text of the CIO resolution reaffirming this pledge in support of our people's war against fascist repression and cruelty.

Suggested use: Give this pamphlet to any members of the local who many not fully understand the no-strike pledge.

Order from the CIO, 718 Jackson Pl., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. 5c per copy, $4.00 per 100.

"When You Come Back," the first union guide for returning servicemen answers questions about servicemen's rights, the CIO program, veterans' organizations, etc. In a section on "Nailing Some Lies," the pamphlet spikes such rumors as "there's going to be a hell of a depression after the war."

Suggested Use: Get copies for the Executive Board and members of the Servicemen's Committee. A few extra copies for members as they return to civilian life would come in very handy.

Order from the United Electrical Workers, 11 East 51st St., New York 22, N. Y. 5c per copy, $4.50 per 100.

"Union Hall Films" lists all the best 16 mm. films, tells the rental cost, if any, and includes a section on where to get projectors and screens.

Suggested Use: In the hands of a committee responsible for arranging movie shows for the local, this pamphlet will be the means of bringing to the local a wealth of information, entertainment and inspiration.

Order from the CIO, 718 Jackson Pl., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. 10c. per copy.

Also from the same address you may get Bishop Sheil's address to the CIO Convention called "A Society of Free Men." These are 2c each, $1.50 per 100.

"A Plea for Equal Justice," issued by the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, 112 East 19th St., New York 3, N. Y. Free. The FTA Convention went on record supporting Mrs. Taylor's fight for justice.

CIO and AFL Call for Greatly Expanded Postwar Housing Program

Washington, D. C. (FP)—Demands of organized labor for a "greatly expanded postwar housing program to create jobs and provide decent living for all," were voiced Jan. 15 by the CIO and AFL before the Senate Subcommittee on Postwar Housing.

Advancing the CIO program for postwar housing, Pres. R. J. Thomas of the United Auto Workers and Chairman of the CIO Housing Committee said the production goal in housing must harness new and ever increasing productivity of American workers to provide "everybody with constantly improving places in which to live."

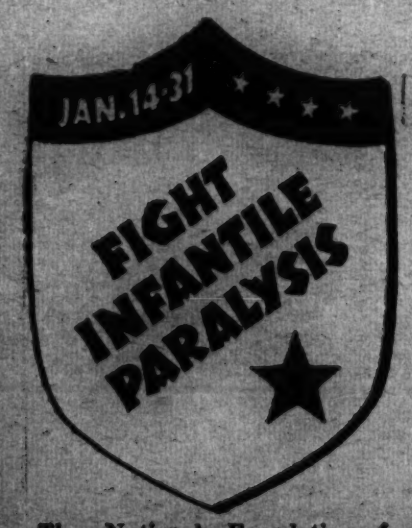
To create 60 million postwar jobs, Thomas said, there must be 15 million more jobs than there were in 1940. "At this rate of increase the building industry would have to provide 2 million more jobs in the postwar period than it did in 1940," giving a minimum job budget for the industry of 6½ million construction workers.

AFL PROGRAM

Leading a double-barrelled attack against the threat of a postwar depression, Chairman Harry C. Bates and Sec. Boris Shishkin of the AFL Housing Committee submitted a detailed 10-year program for the construction of 15 million homes, describing it as the "minimum program for meeting accumulated demand."

MORE JOBS

"The AFL program can be brought into high gear within 5 years after the cessation of hostilities," Shishkin declared. He said it would yield nearly 2½ million jobs at the construction site alone and "full operation of the plan would bring employment to 6½ million workers directly engaged in production and handling of building materials as well as the building itself."



The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is making its Annual Appeal for funds through the March of Dimes, January 14-31. Make your contribution to help overcome this dread disease!

BUY WAR BONDS

for

VICTORY

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RIVAL PACKING COMPANY

Under Contract with Local 194

FTA-CIO

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

"Desk Soldier" Becomes A Fighter— Haber Story Cited In AP Dispatch

Philippine Islands—Pfc. Bill Haber, International Representative on leave, showed the stuff union men are made of in an act of heroism which won the attention of the Associated Press correspondent here. A personnel clerk with the invading forces in the Philippines, Haber grabbed a rifle in the midst of an infantry charge, fought the Japanese and then carried a wounded comrade to safety.

ON LATRINE DUTY: Haber's Xmas greeting to FTA is the above self-portrait showing one of the quieter moments of life on Leyte.

The story of his action, written by AP correspondent Fred Hampson follows:

"With the 24th Division on Leyte (Delayed)—(AP)—The desk soldier turned fighter on the Palo beach.

"William Haber, a Private First Class from 3324 Altmont Rd., Cleveland, Ohio, was a personnel clerk with the Division office staff when he came ashore, but they ran into a mortar barrage on the beach. Haber, who had done his fighting with a typewriter up to that moment, grabbed a rifle and found himself in the midst of an infantry charge, and with two others got in front.

OUT IN FRONT

"The charge halted by a Japanese machine gun, Haber found himself out ahead with one dead and one wounded man for companions. Despite the fire, he carried the wounded man to safety."

In a letter recently written to the Union and printed in the January 1 issue of the News, Haber described conditions among the ravaged civilian population of the Philippine Islands and urged FTA to spur a campaign for aid to the Filipino people. The Publicity Department is currently investigating the possibility of sending such aid.

Labor and Soldiers Fight Together, "Yank" Says

TAKING a poke at the disrupters who "would like to see a wild scramble between veterans and civilians for jobs after the war," YANK, widely circulated GI magazine, pointed out the importance of vet-worker unity.

"You can't disguise the fact that the AFL and CIO have outlawed strikes for the duration, that the few you read about are wildcat strikes. You can't ignore figures: in the first 109 days of the Normandy invasion we put ashore 17 million ship tons of supplies.... Who do you thing made that stuff—pixies?

"There is a lot of talk about those two words—'national unity'—but what they simply mean is that we are all part of the same country. We are winning the war by working together, and we will have to work together after the war if we want jobs and security.

"It is going to be tough enough reconverting to full civilian production without starting a fight among the men who will do the producing. And if you begin by setting veteran against civilian, you will end by setting Protestant against Catholic, Catholic against Jew, white against Negro — and you will wind up by having the very thing we are fighting the war to destroy."

Is It Fit To Be Read In A Foxhole?

By Betty Goldstein, Federated Press

THIS is for those who have a GI fighting man overseas. The armed forces say that mail from home is now "more than a fighting man's privilege, it is a military necessity."

You are asked to write more often because servicemen get more of a lift from frequent letters, no matter how short, than from longer ones spaced further apart. And don't forget to use V-mail. Failure to use V-mail is congesting military postal facilities and delaying the delivery of regular and airmail letters, the army says.

V-mail gets there more quickly because it always goes by air. As more men are transferred to overseas stations, the government says airmail will be given second priority whereas V-mail will always be on the first plane out—and for just the usual 3c stamp, too.

As to what you write, the army says a soldier's morale can be ruined by the wrong kind of letter. Spare him homefront worries and the really small hardships of civilian life, tell him about family projects and how you are planning on his return, speak of his friends, of familiar places, what's going on, the town and neighborhood—and the union. And always ask yourself: "Is this letter fit to be read in a foxhole?"

ARE all of your local's members in the service on the FTA News mailing list? If not, send their names and addresses to the News today!

CIO War Relief Committee is preparing for the Spring Drive of the American Red Cross in CIO plants and locals. Shown discussing the Red Cross program are (reading from l. to. r.): Willard Townsend, President of the United Transport Service Employees; Sidney Hillman, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; Irving Abramson, President of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council and chairman of the CIO War Relief Committee; and Mrs. Overton S. Chambers, volunteer staff assistant of the Red Cross.

—On The World Front—

CIO Urges Formation Of New World Labor Body

Washington, D. C.—Reaffirming the CIO's determination to build United Nations unity through a new world labor organization. CIO President Murray expressed regret that the AFL refused to take part in the World Labor Congress, when some 150 delegates from trade unions in 30 countries will meet in London on February 6.

FRANCE became the 36th member of the United Nations as French Ambassador Henri Bonnet (above) signed the original document in Washington, D.C., on New Year's Day. (Federated Pictures)

By boycotting the World Labor Congress, the AFL Executive Board hopes to revive the almost non-existent Intl. Federation of Trade Unions. Murray said the CIO will fight the revival of the IFTU because it excludes important trade union organizations such as the Railroad Brotherhoods, CIO and the Soviet trade unions.

AGENDA FOR PARLEY

Representatives of the British Trades Union Congress, Soviet trade unions and the CIO met recently in London to make arrangements for the forthcoming World Labor Congress. They agreed to an agenda discussing the furtherance of the allied war effort; the treatment of liberated nations and our conquered enemies in the postwar; the formation of a permanent world trade union federation; and the problems of postwar reconstruction based on social security and full employment throughout the world.

Murray expressed his confidence that the World Labor Congress will make important gains for the people of the world "by uniting the labor movements of all freedom-loving nations to work together."

In Memoriam

FTA mourns the untimely death of two members of Local 125, St. Joseph, Mo.:

Kieth I. Motley, killed in action, France, Nov. 26, 1944.

Emmett A. Roloson, killed in action, France, Dec. 6, 1944.

JOHNNIE JONES
APPRENTICE SEAMAN
ABOUT TO SHIP OUT, JOHNNIE CELEBRATES WITH A CHARACTER WHO TAKES HIM TO A DIVE OWNED BY JUMBO WHO, FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN, WANTS TO FIND OUT WHEN JOHNNIE'S SHIP IS SAILING--THE BAIT JUMBO USES IS ANNIE, WHO GOES TO WORK ON JOHNNIE.....
BY DON RICO
AIN'T IT A SHAME, PETE? THAT CHICK IS CRYIN'--I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHY---
EXCUSE ME, MISS--ARE YOU IN SOME KINDA TROUBLE, MAYBE?
GEE! A GENTLEMAN!
IT'S JUMBO, THERE! HE'S GOING TO FIRE ME 'CAUSE I DON'T GET ENOUGH CUSTOMERS TO BUY DRINKS!
WHY-- THE BIG LUG!
HOW'S IT GOIN', JUMBO, OKAY?
YOU BET! IN A FEW MINUTES HE'LL TRY TO TAKE HER OUT--THEN I GO TO WORK ON HIM! ONCE I GET HIM IN MY PRIVATE OFFICE, HE'LL TALK---!
PLEASE! TAKE ME OUT OF THIS AWFUL PLACE!
G-GOSH!
C'MON! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK IN A JOINT LIKE THIS!
GOING SOMEPLACE?
TO BE CONTINUED----

England and U.S. Exchange Visitors

Washington, D.C. — Four American and four British women trade unionists will make exchange visits to the two countries some time this month for a period of six weeks. Designed to bring about a better understanding between the two peoples at war, the visits are similar to the ones made last year by men workers.

British women visiting the U. S. are Edith Maycock, garment worker; Barbara Bates, engineering worker; Mary Jennings, hosiery worker; and Mary Brodie, electrical worker.

Three American visitors to Great Britain already named are Mrs. Julia O. Parker of Boston, member of the Intl. Bro. of Electrical Workers (AFL); Mrs. Grace Blackett of Detroit, Intl. Rep. of the United Auto Workers (CIO) and Ann Murkovich of Reading, organizer for the American Federation of Hosiery Workers (CIO).